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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State

Mr. Arthur Hummel
Acting Assistant Secretary for
East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Mr. Winston Lord
Director of Planning and Coordination

Ambassador Huang Chen
Chief of PRC Liaison Office

Mr. Chien Ta-yung
PRC Liaison Office

Mr. Chi Chao Chu
Interpreter, PRC Liaison Office

DATE AND TIME: Friday, October 19, 1973
6:30 - 6:45 p.m.

PLACE: The Secretary's Office,
Department of State

Secretary: I know I will see you soon, but I wanted to give you a piece of information. I also wanted to discuss one other problem with you.

First, about the Middle East, our impression is that the Israelis are winning rather decisively. I'm saying this for your information, not for your comment. I am glad to get comments, but I do not want you to feel obliged to do so.

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION

SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652

EXEMPTION CATEGORY 1

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2

You know we have been exchanging ideas with your northern ally about a possible settlement. Now their friends appear to be in difficulty, and they have become very nervous. They've asked me to come urgently to Moscow to see whether I can work out a solution with them. They cannot send anybody here because they need to be in a group when they make their decisions. So I am leaving tonight after your dinner. But we will not announce this until after your dinner, about 2:00 a.m., that I have left.

Amb Huang: You are leaving after the dinner?

Secretary: I will go to Moscow, and I should be back within 48 hours. Just for the information of your government, we will discuss nothing else except arranging a ceasefire in the Middle East. There is no other agenda item. I'll make sure General Scowcroft keeps you informed about the course of the conversations before they are concluded.

So I thought you might wish to convey this to the Prime Minister.

Amb Huang: Yes. I will report this right away.

Secretary: Our assessment is that, whatever one's views about the Middle East, we have an obligation to discourage great power adventurism.

Secondly, as a result of this, I am cancelling the Japanese portion of my trip to the Far East. And I wanted to ask the opinion of the Prime Minister if the negotiations drag on.... I will come back by Monday night, in any event no matter what; I will come back here. And I am not expected in China until the 26th, so I can leave on Wednesday night and still arrive. But I wanted to ask the opinion of the Prime Minister -- if the Middle East crisis is not really concluded by the end of next week, it would not be really very easy for me to be in Peking while the complex negotiations are going on. And under these circumstances, I was wondering what the Prime Minister's views would be. I could come between

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3

the period of November 7-11, or again between the period of November 23-30, whichever is most convenient. Perhaps the Prime Minister could let us have his views.

I need not tell you how anxious I am to go, and we believe it's become more and more important to coordinate our views, or at least to exchange our views, because many of the problems we fore-saw are beginning to come true. So if it becomes necessary to postpone the trip, we think it would be best if we could also announce another date right away. We don't have to make a decision until the end of next week. We don't have to make a decision until Monday or Tuesday.

Amb Huang: I will report right away to the Prime Minister. And as soon as there is a reply, I will let you know. I will let General Scowcroft and Mr. Hummel know.

Secretary: But we have a very big bureaucracy here, so by the time that Mr. Hummel gets to me, I'll probably be around the world twice, so also you should tell General Scowcroft.

Amb Huang: I will immediately, upon going back, put this to the Prime Minister.

Secretary: I will see you this evening.

Amb Huang: The banquet will go on as planned, and no one knows anything at the banquet. In my toast, I will still speak as if we were sending you off.

Secretary: All right.

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